

## [Bad sperrits]

Project #-1655

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Approx. 182 words

Folklore

(Verbatim Conversation)

“Ophelia will you tell me why spirits come back to worry people?”

“Bad sperrits come from hell to torment wicked people what dey 'sociate wid when dey been on dis ert (earth). Sometime dey kill em by scare. Hell one turrible place. What de wicked do on dis ert, it jes lak dat in hell. Cussing, shooting, fighting one anodder, but dey being sperrits caint do any hurt. De fire down here is a big pit ob brimstone, a roaring an' a roaring. It bigger dan Charleston seem lak. When I was seeking de Lord befo' I conberted (converted) 'e place me in hell to conbince (convince) me. I stay down dere mos' a hour, den I knowed dere a hell.

“I see de souls biling in de pit ob brimstone. Oh! God hab mercy on me soul. I'se a had (hard) believer, nebber did I t'ink dere could be a hell, but I knowed now ef you doan pray hell go be you home. It no flower bed ob ease down dere. What you sow in wicked doings you sure reap down dere.

Source: Ophelia Jamison, Addison Ct, Charleston, S. C.